

Message Text

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54

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /125 W

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R 020930Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6229

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INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO DEPT STATEMENT ON HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION IN ROK

1. ON OCTOBER 2 LOCAL PRESS HAD HEADLINE STORIES REPORTING US
CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA. STORIES BASED ON
DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 1 PRESS BRIEFING AND ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY
WITH WASHINGTON DATELINE CONCERNING SPECIAL REPORT ON
HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH DEPARTMENT IS SAID TO HAVE PROVIDED CONGRESS.

2. ACCORDING TO HANKUK ILBO'S WASHINGTON-BASED
CORRESPONDENT, DEPARTMENT'S OCTOBER 1 PRESS BRIEFING
REVEALED THAT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL
AFFAIRS JOSEPH SISCO HAD TALKED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
KIM DONG JO ON SEPTEMBER 27. SECRETARY SISCO REPORTEDLY MADE
U.S. POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS CLEAR TO FOREIGN MINISTER,
THAT "ABOVE ALL" U.S. AID WAS AFFECTED BY HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION IN KOREA. DEPT SPOKESMAN IS QUOTED AS HAVING POINTED
OUT THAT USG HAS EXPLAINED ITS POSITION TO ROKG SEVERAL TIMES.
STORIES NOTE USG POSITION WAS ALSO CONVEYED TO ROKG DURING
SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN HONOLULU.

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3. HANKUK ILBO GOES ON TO EXPLAIN THAT FOREIGN MINISTER, ON OTHER HAND, HAD TOLD PRESS THAT ON SEPTEMBER 27 HE HAD TALKED WITH SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND OTHER SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ABOUT ROKG POLICY REGARDING UNITED NATIONS, PRESIDENT FORD'S UPCOMING VISIT TO KOREA, AND OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. NEWSPAPER NOTES THAT KIM DONG JO DID NOT SAY HE HAD DISCUSSED HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS AS DEPARTMENT LATER ANNOUNCED IN OCTOBER 1 BRIEFING.

4. MOST LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE FEATURED HANKUK ILBO REPORT BUT SEVERAL ALSO BASED ARTICLES ON AP STORY THAT DEPT SPECIAL REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA WAS GIVEN TO CONGRESS. MOST PRESS REPORTS QUOTE AP STORY, NOTING DEPT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT THAT ALTHOUGH U.S. DOES NOT SUPPORT "ROKG POLICY CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS" IT IS NATURALLY CONCERNED THAT ROK BECOMES SELF-SUPPORTING. AP STORIES INDICATE U.S. MAIN EFFORT IN KOREA IS TO ENSURE SECURITY AND STABILITY IN EAST ASIA.

5. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS STATED THAT DEPT REPORT (CALLED INGERSOLL REPORT) NOTES THAT HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER WILL BE ASSIGNED TO EACH DEPARTMENT OF STATE GEORGRAPHIC REGION.
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